OPINION
Political Diversity on the Hill
Lopes '21 argues the College falls short on its promise of a truly diverse campus **page 5**

FEATURES
Hamilton Fire Department
A colorful history of fighting fires on the Hill and in Clinton **page 9**

SPORTS
Aces
Women's tennis serves up a strong start to the spring season **page 16**

18|47 The Spectator

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Publishing the Truth, From Good Motives and For Justifiable Ends

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Students awarded Fulbright grants to pursue studies post-graduation

by Erica Ivins '21
Staff Writer

PHOTOS COURTESY OF HAMILTON COLLEGE

Emily Liu '19, Colleen Wahl '19, Emily Yong '19, and Henry Shuldiner '19 (left to right) are four of the 10 students awarded the Fulbright grant and English Teaching Assistant award so far.

10 Hamilton seniors have received Fulbright grants and English teaching assistant awards, with more decisions to be released on a rolling basis in the coming weeks. Fulbright Scholarships are part of the United States' Cultural Affairs programs and provide students with funds to pursue their academic interests to study, conduct research, or teach abroad after graduation.

Henry Shuldiner '19 recently received word of his Fulbright Scholarship. He says his time abroad in Chile inspired his project and proposal.

"I studied abroad in Santiago, Chile during the spring semester of my junior year through School for International Training's Education and Social Change Program," Shuldiner said. "I observed and taught English in over 30 classrooms in Santiago, Valparaiso, Temuco, and Buenos Aires."

Shuldiner says he desired to return to the Latin American classroom as an English teacher with his Fulbright Scholarship.

"The hands-on classroom experience I had interacting with first graders to 22-year-old students at re-entry schools was unbelievable. Each classroom was different from the next," he said.

Hamilton College's Student Fellowships Coordinator Ginny Dosch explains that many successful Fulbright projects derive from previous experiences like these.

"It's essential for applicants to have the academic and experiential (e.g., research, internship, or teaching experiences, and language skills, if applicable) foundation to study, conduct research, or teach abroad," said Dosch.

The competitive application process for the grant takes up almost the entire academic year.

Shuldiner said that "the application process takes a long time; you apply in October and then don't hear back from the first round until January, and ultimately the decisions are released in late March."

Fortunately, students are not alone in the application process. Dosch assists students with their applications to the Fulbright Committee.

"The application process consists of completing an online application, which includes a proposal, personal statement, three letters of recommendation, and, if applicable, in-country affiliations, as well as language evaluations by the campus deadline in mid-September," said Dosch. "Students are interviewed by the Fulbright committee and post-interview have time to make revisions to the statements before the national deadline in early October."

Shuldiner said that Dosch offered him helpful advice that helped make his proposal successful.

"This whole thing could not be possible without one of the most amazing and underappreciated people I have met at Hamilton, Ginny Dosch," said Shuldiner. "Ginny knows so much about Fulbrights and how to make your application as competitive as possible — she advised me throughout the whole process and really helped me prepare my application and interview, and was a huge part of my success."

Shuldiner predicted that this scholarship will define the rest of his post-graduation experience, saying, "I'm sure I'll figure out what I want to do after my Fulbright more in the next 10 months and I anticipate my time in Colombia being a huge factor in my decision of what to do after."

Dosch agreed that each student's Fulbright scholarship project can serve as a great way for them to explore their areas of interest and plan for the future.

"Fulbright projects aren't random — they grow out of academic interests and are directly tied to students' future plans," she said. "Through [their] Fulbright experiences, Hamilton alums develop critical skills in areas of interest and explore their interests and concerns in greater depth in cultures different from their own."

Fulbright scholarships allow students to apply what they learned at schools like Hamilton to the real world.

"As a Hispanic Studies minor, I feel like I have a good understanding of how language classes work and what are effective ways of teaching and learning a new language," said Shuldiner. "I hope to use [that understanding] in my classroom in Colombia."

Shuldiner added that he feels excited to interact with and explore a world completely different from the life he is used to in the United States.

"I think living abroad is such a unique opportunity and not something most Americans will get to do, especially for a whole year," he said. "I think I'll be able to grow a lot as a student and continue to expand my worldview while also helping students learn my language as I continue to learn theirs."

Dosch insisted that the Fulbright encourages students to expand their worldly and cultural experiences in a different country.

"Fulbright grantees are expected to be fully engaged in their host communities," said Dosch. "We look for knowledge of the host country and ways in which students plan to participate in community activities."

Shuldiner agreed.

"As I always tell people, one of the best things Hamilton has taught me is to be curious and get out of my comfort zone," said Shuldiner. "I look forward to doing both of those things next year and much more!"

The Fulbright Scholarship is one of the most competitive fellowship programs in the world, operating in over 160 countries and providing 8,000 grants annually.

Jackie Judd P'14 to moderate upcoming Common Ground discussion

by Will Kaback '20
Editor-in-Chief

On Friday, March 29, the College announced that Jackie Judd P'14 will moderate the next installment of the Common Ground series on Thursday, April 11, at 7:30 PM in the Margaret Bundy Scott Field House. The event will feature Jim Messina, deputy chief of staff for former President Barack Obama, and Reince Priebus, former chief of staff for President Donald Trump.

Judd is a veteran journalist and independent communications consultant who reported for *ABC News*, *NPR*, and, most recently, the *PBS NewsHour*. Over the course of her career, she has been recognized with numerous awards, including national Emmys and the Edward R. Murrow award for outstanding achievements in electronic journalism.

As a radio and television reporter, Judd has covered a wide array of major national and international events like the fall of Berlin Wall, the Tiananmen Square uprising, the impeachment of President Clinton, and the 2000 election recount.

In an interview with her alma mater, American University, Judd said she planned to pursue a career in broadcast journalism beginning in her teenage years. In addition to her aforementioned national and international reporting, she has consistently focused on issues in politics and social and health care policy.

In 2003, Judd stepped away from her reporting duties to take on the role of vice president and senior advisor for communications at the Kaiser Family Foundation, where she spent the next decade focusing on health policy communications and the international AIDS epidemic. She also oversaw the production of mini-documentaries on healthcare issues and trained journalists in Russia, Ukraine, and the Caribbean on covering HIV-AIDS.

Currently, she serves as a communications consultant specializing in the non-profit sector. Additionally, she is vice-chair of the American Board of Internal Medicine Foundation.

Next Thursday's Common Ground event will not be Judd's first. In October, she moderated the discussion between Mark Elias '90, who served as general counsel for Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign, and Mike Dubke '92 P '19, former White House communications director in the Trump administration. That talk centered on the 2018 midterm elections, political polarization, and the developing role of communications in politics.

Past Common Ground events have featured David Axelrod and Karl Rove, with *USA Today* Washington bureau chief Susan Page as moderator in the fall of 2017, and Condoleezza Rice and Susan Rice, with *NBC News* chief foreign affairs correspondent Andrea Mitchell as moderator in the spring of 2018.

Tickets to the Common Ground event are free and available at hamilton.edu/commonground.

PHOTO COURTESY OF HAMILTON COLLEGE

The upcoming Common Ground installment will feature a moderated discussion between Jim Messina (right) and Reince Priebus (left).

PHOTO COURTESY OF NANCY L. FORD/HAMILTON COLLEGE

Jackie Judd P'14 moderates the discussion between Mark Elias '90 (left) and Mike Dubke '92 P'19 (right) at the Common Ground event on Oct. 27.

AMHERST BATES BOWDOIN COLBY CONNECTICUT COLLEGE

NESCAC NEWS

MIDDLEBURY TRINITY TUFTS WESLEYAN WILLIAMS

by Natalie Halpin '21
News Editor

Bowdoin acceptance rate drops to 8.9 percent

Bowdoin admitted a record-low 8.9 percent of applicants for their class of 2023. This acceptance rate is 10.3 percent less than it was last year and the first time their acceptance rate has gone below 10 percent. The school says more first-generation students, students of color, and international students submitted applications than in previous years.

With more students matriculating than the College expected, the yield for the Class of 2022 was unexpectedly high, which resulted in the College accepting fewer students for this year.

"The likelihood of a student saying yes is increasing every year, which is great for Bowdoin," said Dean of Admissions and Financial Aid Whitney Soule. "The byproduct of that is that we can admit fewer people, because we don't want to over enroll."

The administration chose to alter the application process this year, giving all applicants the option to submit a short video response to supplement their application. Around 15 percent of the applicants chose to submit a video response. The video process entailed students responding to given prompts — 30 seconds to think about their answer, followed by two minutes to respond.

Other NESCAC schools saw a decline in acceptance rates as well. The acceptance rate for Amherst College decreased to 10.8 percent for this year's applicants compared to 12.8 percent for the Class of 2022. Due to a record 8,338 applications for the Class of 2023 at Hamilton, up 34 percent from last years total of 6,240, the acceptance rate projects to be the lowest in the College's history.

NESCAC calls for carbon-neutral investments

On April 2, the Tufts Community Union (TCU) Senate met to discuss a resolution calling for Tufts investments to be carbon-neutral, with other NESCAC schools taking similar steps.

Hanna Carr, a junior who worked on the resolution, explained the rationale behind its creation. "It is far too risky and a breach of fiduciary responsibility, as well as a breach of active citizenship, to remain invested in fossil fuels," Carr said. "The time for Tufts to de-carbonize its endowment is now." The resolution was adopted by the TCU Senate with 24 in favor and none opposed.

Amherst College have announced plans to become "carbon neutral" by 2030, transitioning campus energy infrastructure away from fossil fuel. Amherst's plan, which came almost four years after the College's Board of Trustees approved a Statement on Sustainability and Investment policy, calls for the use of geothermal energy sources and electric heat pumps to power campus buildings.

Amherst President Carolyn Martin said that the plan was developed from current research which says that the world has around a decade to reduce carbon emissions to avoid the most catastrophic effects of climate change.

"The trustees share the conviction that the college must address the threat of climate change, both by intensifying our efforts to reduce our carbon footprint and by ensuring that we can continue to provide students with the best available education, one that prepares them to lead in the urgent work that must be done on a larger scale," Martin said.

Student efforts call attention to gendered bathrooms on campus

by Isabel Kierstead '21
Staff Writer

Over the past month, posters designating bathrooms as gender-neutral were taped over bathroom doors in many public buildings on campus. A number of gender-neutral bathrooms exist across campus, but many remain that are not officially designated as such. Erin Collins '19, a transgender woman and student at the College, led the initiative and said she hoped to call attention to the remaining gendered bathrooms on campus.

On Wednesday, March 6, Collins taped "Gender-Neutral" signs to the bathroom entrances in Christian-Johnson, Kirner-Johnson, List Art Center, and Taylor Science Center. In List, multiple signs were hung on the men's bathroom doors. Collins says the project has been in the works for some time.

"The signs were hung over every single gendered bathroom sign on campus, and we put 15 on the door of the all gender bathroom in list that still has the word Men written on it," said Collins. "They've all been taken down now, either by cleaning staff because it is their job or torn down by people who get mad about it."

Those involved said that the feedback from the community has been positive, with many believing it to be a necessary action.

"I'm hoping [the initiative will] call attention to the significant lack of gender-neutral bathrooms in academic buildings — and where they are converted they only convert men's bathrooms, so the 'all gender' doesn't function as an all-gender bathroom so much as just a men's bathroom," said Collins. "That doesn't help any of the trans people on this campus, or anyone for that matter."

Gender-neutral bathrooms were first introduced to the Hamilton campus in the spring of 2014. Then-Dean of Students, Nancy Thompson put together a committee comprised of faculty, students, and members of the Queer Student Union (QSU, then known as the Rainbow Alliance) to discuss the idea of All-Gender bathrooms.

"Many of our residence halls had what were then known as 'co-ed' bathrooms that had been in place for decades," said Travis Hill, Assistant Dean for Student Engagement. "We quickly agreed that each building on campus should have All-Gender bathrooms and anything functioning as a 'co-ed' bathroom should get signage indicating the more inclusive term of All-Gender bathroom." Residence halls also had at least one bathroom on a floor designated as "All-Gender."

PHOTO COURTESY OF NATALIE HALPIN '21

A sign on the second floor of the Sadove Student Center designates a restroom as an All-Gender bathroom.

"We did discuss shifting all bathrooms on campus to All-Gender at that time," said Hill. "We opted not to do so given our campus is open to the public and [we wanted] to see how the community responded [to the newness of All Gender bathrooms on the Hill.]"

Prior to Collins's initiative, a committee was also formed to revisit the number of All-Gender bathrooms around campus, as Collins argues the topic has not been readdressed since 2014.

"I'm hoping at the very least [the administration] deals with the 'men' sign on the gender-neutral door in List," said Collins. "This has been something we as a community have tried a few tactics with so they most assuredly know it's a thing."

Campus Safety Incident Report

In an effort to increase Campus Safety's transparency, *The Spectator* publishes a selection of the previous week's incidents each Thursday. Both Campus Safety and *The Spectator* use discretion regarding what is published.

Thursday, March 07

8:00 A.M. Medical Emergency – Ferguson House
3:00 P.M. Assist – Campus Safety Building
9:27 P.M. Odor of Marijuana – Dunham Residence Hall

Friday, March 08

12:42 A.M. Trouble Alarm – Bundy West Residence Hall
3:56 P.M. Complaint – Campus Safety Building
6:33 P.M. TipNow – Campus Safety Building
8:29 P.M. Medical Emergency – Scott Field House
9:21 P.M. Area Check – Bristol Campus Center: Hub
11:20 P.M. Assist– Off Campus Location
11:36 P.M. Noise Complaint– South Campus
11:52 P.M. Medical Emergency– South Campus

Saturday, March 09

12:01 A.M. Concern for Welfare – South Residence Hall
1:45 P.M. Assist – Commons Dining Hall
3:01 A.M. Concern for Welfare- Wertimer House
3:15 A.M. Medical Emergency – Milbank Residence Hall
8:31 A.M. Motor Assist – Campus Safety Building
4:04 P.M. Medical Emergency – Griffin Road Apartments
8:04 P.M. Area Check – Bristol Campus Center
10:10 P.M. Complaint – Kirner-Johnson Building
10:25 P.M. Medical Emergency – Mcintosh Residence Hall
10:43 P.M. Area Check – Kirner-Johnson Building
11:02 P.M. Complaint– Dunham Residence Hall

Sunday, March 10

12:00 A.M. Area Check– South Campus
12:04 A.M. Area Check–North Campus
12:06 A.M. Noise Complaint- Babbitt Residence Hall
12:25 A.M. Complaint – Babbitt Residence Hall
1:44 A.M. Medical Emergency- Keehn Residence Hall
3:53 A.M. Area Check– South Campus
4:47 P.M. Trouble Alarm – Griffin Road Apartments
10:27 P.M. Trouble Alarm – Keehn Residence Hall

Monday, March 11

12:49 A.M. Tow Vehicle – Parking Lots: Ferguson Faculty
12:11 P.M. Parking Complaint – Glen House
5:17 P.M. Trouble Alarm - Mcewen Dining Hall
9:53 A.M. TipNow – Kirkland Residence Hall
10:44 P.M. Trouble Alarm– Griffin Road Apartments

Coming to Terms with Adventure Tourism

I staggered out of the van into the Glen House parking lot at 6 P.M. last Sunday night, my legs slowly remembering how to walk after 30+ hours of travel from Kathmandu, Nepal. I had spent two weeks trekking in the Annapurna region of Nepal as part of a Hamilton Outing Club trip connected to Professor Maurice Isserman's Himalayan Mountaineering course. As our group, led by Outing Club director Sarah Jillings, trekked from hostel to hostel, our baggage was carried by porters, our meals served to us by our guides, and at least three times every day we were served tea. The trip was luxurious, blurring the line between frontcountry comfort and backcountry aesthetics. We were exploring some of the most rugged terrain in the world with wifi available for 200 rupees (about two dollars U.S.).

From the get go, the idea of having porters carry our bags put a twist in my stomach. Perhaps it was my pride, maybe my elitist view of outdoor appreciation. But for my entire life, being outside meant self-sufficiency, and the format of this trip defied my outdoor "ethic." But what was that ethic worth? We trekked through villages that solely existed to accommodate trekkers, their economies irreversibly transformed by a massive influx of Western tourists beginning in the 1980s. Our meals, packed in on the backs of porters or mules, were overwhelmingly westernized, comprised of pasta, french fries, and mild soups. We were living a curated cultural experience in a world transformed by our own economic input. Porters would pass us as we trekked, and as they did I was overcome with guilt and shame that we had everything done for us and could not even be bothered to carry our own clothes. It felt uncomfortably imperialist, paying local people to serve our every whim as we took pictures and marveled at the landscapes.

But just like my artificially constructed "outdoor ethic" was based on a mixture of pridefulness and elitism, so too was my view of our impact on the people supporting our trek. Before Western tourists began pouring into Nepal in the 1980s, the majority of villagers in the valleys surrounding the Annapurna massif were subsistence farmers, working terraced plots on the rocky, steep mountainsides and raising buffalo, chickens, and yaks. Before the "Excellent Best View Lodge" and "Annapurna Approach Great Outlook Hotel" and dozens of other so-named hotels popped up along the route to Annapurna base camp, life in the mountains was dictated by monsoons and crop yields.

Our guide on the trip, Chandra, owns his own trekking company and said that when he entered the business twenty-five years ago there were only a handful of trekking companies in Nepal. Today, there are thousands. The trekking business has brought massive economic growth to the region, and has pivoted the local economy from agriculture to tourism. Because we were trekking with Nepalese guides employed by a Nepalese owned company, the money that we spent on this trek would be recirculated into the Nepalese economy. While the pervasion of English and the "German bakeries" in some of the hillside towns may have offended my privileged, neoliberal sensibilities and corrupted my ableist image of the outdoors, the supposed "ethical issue" that I saw came down to one fundamental oversight. I was only in Nepal for two weeks. The people we relied on are there for their whole lives.

Hopefully without drifting into the realm of white saviorship, I came to acknowledge that my participation in the potentially-exploitative trekking industry was sustaining the livelihoods of the local people. If we were part of the first wave of Annapurna trekkers, who disrupted the local economy and shifted it towards outdoor tourism, we might have faced a more challenging moral question. But given that the villages in the Annapurna circuit are now almost wholly dependent on the trekking industry, perpetuating that industry becomes essential for the guides and porters and lodge owners and chefs who made our experience possible. The twist in my stomach was phenomenally unimportant in the grand scheme of things; the reality is that trekking is a service industry, and the more luxurious it is the more people it employs.

Long story short, I needed to get over myself. My ideal of the "unspoiled wilderness" is just simply not what I was going to get from this experience, nor should it have been. What I did get, however, was the chance to interact with our guides (who were wonderfully kind, generous, and accommodating), our group itself, and the natural world, all of which amounted to an incredible experience.

Sincerely,
Peter Case '21
Editorial Editor

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Letters to the Editor Policy

The Spectator's Letter to the Editor section is designed to be a forum for the entire Hamilton community to discuss and debate campus, local, national, and global issues. Pieces published in the section express the opinion of the individual writers and are not necessarily the opinions of *The Spectator*, its editors or the Media Board.

Letters to the Editor are welcome from all students, alumni/ae, faculty, friends of the college, and Hamilton community members.

The Spectator has the following policies for submission:

1. Submissions are due by 10:00 p.m. on the Monday before publication. The editors reserve the right to refuse any late submissions.
2. Letters should be no longer than 500 words. The editors reserve the right to cut off letters at 500 words.
3. Letters submitted anonymously will not be printed.
4. *The Spectator* reserves the right not to publish any letter it deems inappropriate for publication.
5. If a piece is determined to be libelous, an unwarranted invasion of privacy, or an unnecessary and/or unwarranted ad hominem or personal attack, it will not be published.

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The glaring lack of political diversity at Hamilton and U.S. colleges

by Tiffany Lopes '21
STAFF WRITER

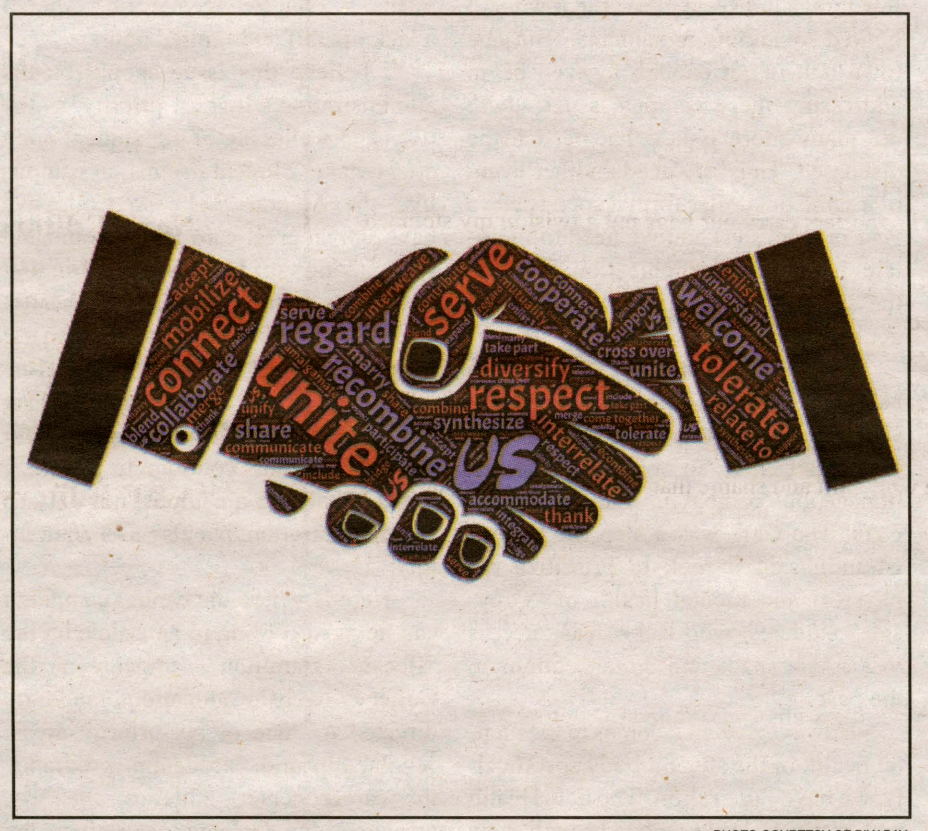


PHOTO COURTESY OF PIXABAY

Although claiming to promote diversity, Lopes argues Hamilton's campus fails to represent right-leaning faculty and students.

As you scroll through the Hamilton College website, one of the first pages you'll encounter is "Our Diverse Community" under the "About" section. It describes an ideal and diverse student body, which is replete with different perspectives that enhance intellectual discussion and the quality of personal interactions. This claim primarily centers on racial and ethnic diversity, with the website proudly touting 31 percent of the student body as students of color and over 45 countries represented. Yet these claims and on-campus discussions of diversity repeatedly and deliberately leave out a critical component of diversity: political diversity.

You don't have to look far to see how Hamilton lacks political representation. The Hamilton Republicans are virtually nonexistent on campus, while the College Democrats regularly hold meetings and coordinate events. The Heartland Institute reports that former Professor Robert Paquette left the College after experiencing ideological attacks as the only outspoken conservative faculty member. An article for campus publication The Monitor was published last semester claiming that all Republicans are inherently immoral. With a crystal-clear picture of our vastly-asymmetrical ideological representation on campus, how do we still have the audacity to claim that Hamilton cherishes diversity?

With a crystal-clear picture of our vastly-asymmetrical ideological representation on campus, how do we still have the audacity to claim that Hamilton cherishes diversity?

Hamilton is undoubtedly not the only U.S. institution faced with this left-leaning phenomenon. According to the National Association of Scholars, Democratic professors outnumber Republicans 10 to 1, and when military colleges are excluded that number increases to 12.7 to 1. The numbers are more staggering when it comes to elite liberal arts colleges; New York Magazine reports that at Williams, Wellesley, and Swarthmore, the ratio exceeds 120 to 1. In every single area of study, the average number of Democratic professors is starkly higher than Republicans.

The appeal for more political diversity amongst faculty is repeatedly dismissed by the media as being invalid in its conclusions and assumptions. Many generalize the argument as coming from a stance of victimhood, vaguely claiming that past conservative marginalization of minority groups should render conservatives unable to complain about being excluded from the campus conversation. Another bold assumption is that this disparity doesn't necessarily diminish the amount of student exposure to differing political ideologies in the classroom. They also claim that in corporate boards, a right-leaning outlook is more apparent, yet there are fewer debates against increasing ideological diversity in those sectors.

A crucial point that should be carefully noted is that biases inherently affect our beliefs and outlooks in all capacities of our day-to-day discourse. We are subconsciously driven to debate and discuss issues in manners that supports our views. Unbiased opinions are seemingly impossible to uphold, professors are no less likely than anyone else to allow their personal biases to seep into their lectures. The implication in arguing that political diversity amongst faculty and students should not be an essential goal is that it assumes that discussion in differing political viewpoints will be obtained naturally. However, the absence of a single vocal conservative professor on campus parallels the lack of right-leaning discussion, fostering ideological homogeneity.

There are a number of initiatives on campus currently striving to create more varied political discourse amongst students that shouldn't go unnoticed. Hamilton recently partnered with public radio content producer StoryCorps in a new project called "One Small Step," which will invite students with differing opinions to have conversations about their political stances and discuss why they came to associate with their views rather than argue about them. Likewise, the new campus organization "Bridge" was created to promote meaningful discussion by engaging students with various political viewpoints in an effort to diminish the ideological divide. Common Ground models respectful dialogue with influential speakers from different sides of the political spectrum to convey how thoughtful debate can take place.

While these efforts to increase political discourse are a good first step, they are not enough. The lack of center-to-right representation within the student body and faculty creates a leftist congruity in student discourse which disregards the wide spectrum of political ideologies within the American population. This illusion does a disservice to students who will most likely be met with starkly differing opinions amongst coworkers after graduation, and will most likely grow embittered by the actual amount of disagreement with their beliefs that lies outside our liberal bubble. Heated discussions with individuals on different sides of the political spectrum are without a doubt uncomfortable, but that debate is necessary to create meaningful conversations and challenge students about their preconceived political notions.

Hamilton, before you claim our community is a diverse one, please take a moment to specify the areas in which you truly seek to diversify the student body. Don't fail to acknowledge the visible leftist homogeneity.

Thumbs Up | Thumbs Down | Who Cares?

Circle Mag

Circle Magazine now is more powerful than CAB and Student Assembly combined. The concert was only the beginning—soon there will be a coup after which SA will unconditionally surrender all funding to Circle Mag.

By 2030, Hamilton will be known as Circle College. Get ready to spin.

Registration Holds

The pleasant surprise of registration holds for Sophomores who haven't completed their P.E. requirement.

Hurry up and register for bocce ball, underwater spinning, and cave spelunking for a total of eight hours of P.E. a week.

Admission rate

Hamilton's admission rate falls to absurd lows. All it does is inflate our already inflated egos.

The only things more superfluous than college admissions are beauty pageants and professional wrestling.

by Cliff Musial '21

Disclaimer: The opinions expressed in this column are purely of a satirical nature, and are not representative of the views of *The Spectator* editorial board.

Because Hamilton campaign must clarify focus on student mental health

by Dorothy Poucher '21
Contributing Writer

It has been one year since many members of our campus gathered together for the first campus town hall. The event touched on important issues like sexual assault, diversity and racism, free speech, and mental health on campus. Concerns about the lack of mental health resources, as well as a lack of response from the administration to student deaths on campus repeated points of concern.

Director of Residential Life Ashley Place responded to one question about mental health resources on campus by highlighting the existence of a twenty-four-hour hotline for what the Counseling Center refers to as "psychological emergencies." Some students, however, seemed to not be aware of this resource at that time. I was one of those students.

After the town hall, some felt as though the event was helpful and demonstrated the administration's concern for student wellbeing, while others felt the administrators present to be defensive and unresponsive to students' concerns. Some fell somewhere in the middle. Wherever you fall on this scale, a few things did seem clear: the town hall ignited something in students. But one town hall is not enough to even begin addressing these campus issues; there are many more issues that need to be discussed. Thus, we need another event of a same or similar format soon (once a year or semester) and we need to facilitate improve communication between the administration and the students in general.

Since the town hall, some things have changed. We have a Dean for Diversity and Inclusion, a new Health and Wellness Center, an ongoing $400 million capital campaign, and the Bundy Cafe. The Cafe was a step the administration said it took to prioritize the physical and mental health of "Greyside" students, who lacked easy access to a social space and dining options in the past.

However, when it comes to the mental health of the student body specifically, we have fallen short. The new Health and Wellness building has brought new technology and facilities, like the Wellness room, to a better location; what it has not brought along is a solution to the issues that students said were most pressing during the town hall. Students are still struggling to make appointments — even two weeks out — due to a lack of staff and limited hours.

I believe this issue should be the administration's highest priority, as the lives and wellbeing of our student body are at stake. Student groups on campus like the Mental Wellness Collective have shown great care on this topic and are making strides towards bringing awareness to the issue of mental health. The town hall showed that the general population is not apathetic to this issue either, and many are willing to speak out. These initial efforts, though, are not enough. We must continue to prioritize mental health as a campus, not only as an administration, but also as a community.

Here is where the capital campaign can help. According to an article on the "Because Hamilton" campaign on the College's website, donations made are directed to "one of six priority areas: scholarship aid, academic programs, the career center, athletics, the arts, or where the College determines the need is greatest." Rather than granting mental health its own category, the campaign leaves the mental health and emotional wellbeing of students under the category: "Where the college determines the need is greatest." One of the priorities of this campaign is wellness, but this seems to focus more on physical health, student programs, and talks. One description of the wellness section does describe "new programs and facilities focused on health and well-being." Whether this stops at the new Wellness Center and its new technology is unclear.

It is not necessary, of course, that this or any campaign be the answer to all of our mental health problems. But if mental health does not fit into the parameters of this campaign then how else will this problem be faced? Hamilton's last major campaign was launched in December 2010. If money and focus is the issue, will we have to wait another eight years, or will this campaign end up actually working towards the goals that many students have called for? If priority or understanding is the problem, will it take another event like a town hall to better communicate to the administration — and hopefully the Board of Trustees— what the students really need?

The essential question remains: when it comes to mental health, when will "where the college determines the need is greatest" align with where current students feel the need is greatest?

Raising taxes on the wealthy is not radical

by Drew Anderson '21
Contributing Writer

Raising taxes on the wealthiest Americans is not a radical idea. President Trump's economic advisors maintain that raising taxes on the richest Americans would hurt economic growth and limit business investment, precipitating a recession. Yet according to a recent *New York Times* survey of 50 leading economists, Trump's fiscal policy received almost unanimous criticism from these economists, who argue that Trump's $1.5 trillion tax cut provided stimulus to the economy when it was least necessary. Now the federal government sits upon an abnormally high budget deficit for an economy that experienced real GDP growth of 2.9 percent in 2018. But the suggestion of raising taxes on the richest Americans remains an anathema in our culture.

Income inequality is linked to economic instability, high burdens of debt for the middle and lower classes, limited social mobility, crime, unequal access to health care, and generational poverty. By increasing government revenue through raising taxes on the wealthiest Americans, we could fully fund our welfare state, invest in repairing and improving our aging infrastructure, provide health care as a right, and provide higher education opportunities to more Americans.

In 2015, the *New York Times* reported that raising the total tax burden on the top 1 of percent income earners from 33.4 percent to 40 percent would boost government revenue by about $157 billion in the first year. That would easily cover the estimated cost of eliminating undergraduate tuition at all American four-year colleges and universities, an estimated $47 billion. And the Tax Policy Center reports that most economists are in agreement that raising taxes moderately would bring in more revenue without doing any great harm to the economy.

Most striking is that this level of tax burden for the top 1 percent of income earners has not been extraordinary throughout American history. According to the Tax Foundation, an independent tax policy think tank, the top 1 percent of American income earners paid an average tax rate of 42 percent throughout the 1950s, compared to 36.4 percent in 2014. But while the tax rate on the top 1 percent has declined since the 1950s, the richest Americans gained a disproportionate amount of the income growth over that time. A 2017 report by the Congressional Budget Office found that after federal taxes and transfers, the top 1 percent of income earners experienced income growth of 275 percent from 1979 to 2007; over that same timeframe, the bottom 20 percent experienced income growth of only 41 percent. That's almost seven times higher income growth for the top 1 percent.

So over the last 40 years, while the the wealthiest Americans' incomes have skyrocketed, their taxes have decreased. Raising taxes on the wealthiest Americans is no less than an attempt to level an economic playing field that was transformed radically by lower taxes, globalization, financialization and automation. Why should we further the income disparity and let those who have gained the most from the changing economy have their taxes reduced?

This question gets to the heart of the cultural obstacles behind increasing taxes in America. We are a country built on the American Dream, the shared belief in the opportunity to succeed economically. Barack Obama evoked it through "the audacity of hope," Hillary Clinton alluded to it in being "stronger together," and of course Donald Trump kicked off his 2016 Presidential campaign by declaring "the American Dream is dead." This shared ideology is so entrenched in our culture, evoked by Democrats and Republicans alike, that it obscures an objective examination of income inequality.

By believing in the American Dream, we avoid the harsh realities of income and wealth inequality. Data from economists Thomas Piketty and Emmanuel Saez demonstrate that while the income share of the bottom half of the U.S. population declined from 20 percent in 1980 to 12 percent in 2014, the share of income of the top 1 percent grew from 12 percent in 1980 to 20 percent in 2014. The top 1 percent of Americans possess 40 percent of the wealth in our country, while the bottom

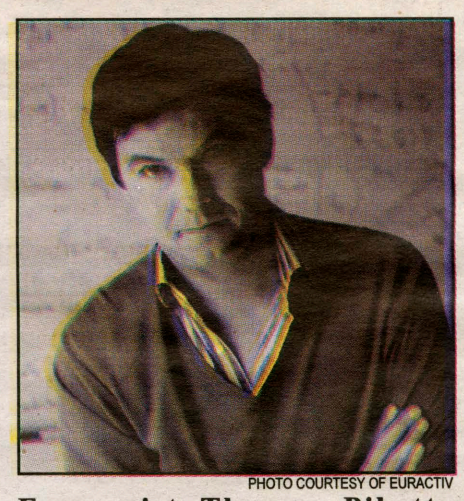


PHOTO COURTESY OF EURACTIV

Economist Thomas Piketty

80 percent posses just 7 percent. The top 1 percent owns more income than the bottom 90 percent.

Trying to create a less unequal distribution of wealth and income is not a matter of harming economic growth, or taking from the rich and giving to the poor. Lessening income and wealth inequality is a matter of turning the American Dream into the American Reality. We cannot fulfill this dream if 1 percent of Americans have more wealth the the majority of Americans combined. Raising taxes on the richest Americans is just one way to address the problem. That way we can send more people to school, encourage research and development to strengthen America's industries, and rebuild our aging infrastructure. Returning taxes on the top 1 percent to where they were in the 1950s or 1970s isn't socialism; it's common sense.

Bachelorette

Bachelorette

Alexia Assimakopoulos '22

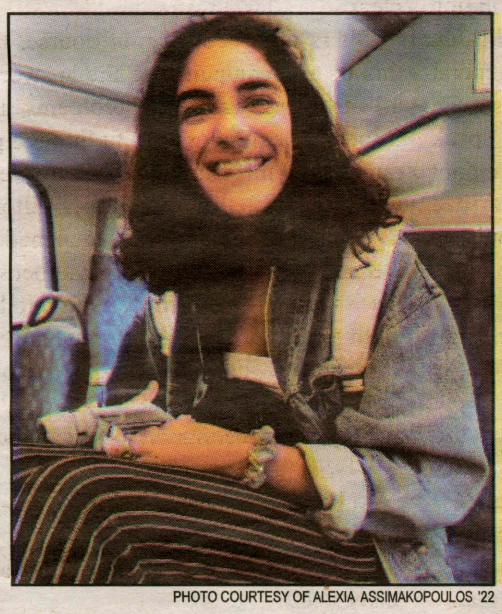


PHOTO COURTESY OF ALEXIA ASSIMAKOPOULOS '22

Hometown: *Belmont, M.A.*
Home on Campus: *Dunham 333. (Jan life!)*
Major: *Being the free spirit that I am.*
Turn on? *Light switches.*
Turn off? *Again, light switches.*
If you were a dorm which would you be and why? *Dunham forever.*
If you had to describe yourself as the love child of any two musicians, whom would you pick and why? *Keke Palmer and Hozier.*
What advertising slogan best describes your life? *"A Diamond is Forever".*
What TV genre best describes you? *Murder Mystery.*
What's the best pick-up line you've ever used/had used on you? *Straight up: "How long you been feelin' me?"*
What's your type? *Greek, because I'm Greek!*
What are three things you cannot live without? *My roommate Grace Halligan, the granola in McEwen, and a hand to hold.*
If you were any social space, what would it be? *The Fillius Events Barn.*
Where do you go when you want to be alone? *The Dunham Basement Tunnel.*
If you could join one group on campus, what would it be? *Is there a club for Greek people?*
What's your patronus and why? *An ostrich... their knees bend backwards.*
If you could break one rule at Hamilton and get away with it, which would you choose? *Sitting at the square tables alone in Commons.*
What would you give a thumbs up? *Jans!*
What would you give a thumbs down? *Augs!*
Who would you say is your campus crush? *Ethan Kent Tse.*
Who would you say is your faculty crush? *The Crew Bus Driver ;).*
What would your perfect date be? *Lunch in McEwen, but only on a Monday.*
If you were a food, which would you be and why? *Feta!*
Lights on or lights off? *Save the planet! Lights off.*
What's the last lie you told? *"I'll wake up early and do the reading."*
What was your first thought this morning? *I didn't wake up early to do my reading.*
What's the meaning of life? *Living the question.*
Which American historical figure are you attracted to and why? *All of the Kennedy's... at once.*

Caroline Paulson '21

PHOTO COURTESY OF CAROLINE PAULSON '21

Hometown: *Chatham, New Jersey.*
Home on Campus: *Bundy West.*
Major: *Neuroscience.*
Turn on? *Diner pickles.*
Turn off? *Exposed ankles.*
If you were a dorm which would you be and why? *Dunham because everyone has a crazy story to tell about it.*
If you had to describe yourself as the love child of any two musicians, whom would you pick and why? *Bob Marley and Lady Gaga.*
What advertising slogan best describes your life? *"Snap, Crackle, Pop."*
What TV genre best describes you? *Soapy high school TV dramas.*
What's the best pick-up line you've ever used/had used on you? *Are you a parking ticket because you've got fine written all over you?*
What's your type? *Boys who looks nice but may have also gone to juvy.*
What are three things you cannot live without? *Carn 208, Fogbuster, green bananas.*
If you were any social space, what would it be? *The Bristol Hub.*
Where do you go when you want to be alone? *The Rok.*
If you could join one group on campus, what would it be? *TKE*
If you could break one rule at Hamilton and get away with it, which would you choose? *Playing with the alligator on the third floor of the science center.*
What would you give a thumbs up? *Wearing a disguise to Commons on Sunday mornings.*
What would you give a thumbs down? *Playing Scrabble during an earthquake.*
Who would you say is your campus crush? *Andrew Charman.*
What would your perfect date be? *The Village Tavern in the daylight.*
What is the weirdest thing currently in your room? *Assorted flavors of expired moonpies.*
If you could remake the points system, what would be the number one offense? *Serving grilled tilapia in Commons.*
If you were a food, which would you be and why? *Baked potato.*
What's the last lie you told? *That they don't celebrate Thanksgiving in Florida.*
Lights on or lights off? *Lights off.*
What was your first thought this morning? *Where did my pants go?*

AXB participants serve local communities over spring break

by Philip Marks '21
Contributing Writer

As it has done for the past 25 years, Hamilton's Alternative Spring Break program (ASB) brought current students along for multiple community service trips to different parts of the country.

ASB began in 1993 when 20 students journeyed to Miami to work with Habitat for Humanity on relief efforts after Hurricane Andrew. Since then, participation in the program has increased steadily, albeit with fluctuations over time.

This year, ASB sent out four teams to different locations during the second week of spring break. Each team was made up of at least 9 participants, and trips went to Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, and South Carolina. The team in Maryland collaborated with the Baltimore-based, non-profit organization City of Refuge, volunteering at a food pantry and a community breakfast for the homeless during the mornings and at a Boys and Girls Club in the afternoon. The other three teams worked with Habitat for Humanity, building on the program's strong relationship built with the organization over the years.

ASB represents a unique opportunity for Hamilton students to engage in community service during their spring break. Students sacrifice a week of their break in order to participate, but report coming away from the experience with a feeling of fulfillment.

IMAGE COURTESY OF HAMILTON COLLEGE

Hamilton students on an Alternative Spring Break trip participate in a community service project.

Ben Cornaglia '19, who led the Baltimore trip, said what appealed to him initially about ASB was "just the chance to do service over break." What keeps him coming back, however, are the "new people and new communities" he encounters each year. While many Hamilton clubs offer students the chance to volunteer on campus, ASB allows students to travel and explore other parts of the country while still making an impact.

Cornaglia's co-leader, Juliana DeSimone '21, had a particularly meaningful experience this year returning to Baltimore for the second year in a row. She learned when she arrived that a home she had helped clean out and refurbish last year was now occupied by a previously homeless father and daughter. The daughter had been moving from couch to couch to stay off the streets and was constantly separated from her father. The refurbished home allows for an increased degree of stability for both.

After discovering the effect of her service, DeSimone said, "It was really rewarding to learn that the work we did in a few days truly helped change the lives of two people."

Unfortunately, participation in the Alternative Break program has fallen off in recent years. While the program was able to send four complete trips this year, Cornaglia said it was not too long ago when they were sending as many as ten trips out.

He speculated that "part of the reason that ASB has fallen off in participation is because we've depended on the same trips (or kinds of trips) every year. And, while we want to maintain the connection we've created with communities, we also want to create new opportunities for students that appeal to the work they want to do."

Cornaglia said the ASB leaders are committed to increasing participation and plan to reach out to other clubs in hopes of collaborating on future trips. He also reiterated that they are open to input, as the ultimate goal is to have leaders planning their own trip as opposed to being assigned a trip.

Hamilton's Alternative Spring Break Program hopes to offer students one of the most rewarding experiences they can have at the College. Cornaglia says that ASB participants can sometimes "wonder what kind of impact we're making in just one week," but experiences like DeSimone's demonstrate just how important that impact can be.

DMC: April Cultural Calendar

April 4: Anniversary of the death of Maya Angelou • Writer and renaissance woman, recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian honor.

April 6: Tartan Day • Celebrates Scottish Americans role in the founding of the United States, and contributions by people of Scottish ancestry.

April 8: Buddha's Birthday • The founder of Buddhism, the largest religion in Asia, and has also attracted followers in the West.

April 14: Palm Sunday • A Christian holiday observed the Sunday before Easter/Pascha to commemorate the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem.

April 14: Rama Navami • A Hindu holiday that celebrates the birthday of Rama, king of ancient India, hero of the epic Ramayana, and seventh incarnation of Vishnu.

April 14: Vaisakhi (also spelled Baisakhi) • A Sikh festival which celebrates the founding of the Sikh community as the Khalsa (community of the initiated). On this day, Sikhs gather and celebrate Vaisakhi at their local Gurdwaras (Sikh house of worship) by remembering this day as the birth of the Khalsa.

April 18: Holy Tuesday • A Christian holiday also known as Maundy Thursday, it is celebrated on the Thursday before Easter commemorating the Last Supper, at which Jesus and the Apostles were together for the last time before the Crucifixion.

April 19 to April 27: Passover • A Jewish holiday that marks the liberation of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt, begins the previous evening with a Seder or meal.

April 19 to April 21: Theravada New Year • A Buddhist holiday that is celebrated in Theravada countries the New Year is celebrated on the first full moon day in April.

April 19: Day of Silence • Students in the U.S. take a day-long vow of silence to protest the actual silencing of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer/questioning (LGBTQ) students and their straight allies due to bias and harassment.

April 21: Birthday of David Servan-Schreiber • Servan-Schreiber was given 6 months to live with brain cancer, but he survived 15 years. Books such as, Anticancer: *A New Way of Life* documents his battle and life with cancer.

April 21 to May 2: Festival of Ridván • Riḍván is a twelve-day festival in the Bahá'í Faith, commemorating Bahá'u'lláh's declaration that he was a Manifestation of God. In the Bahá'í Calendar, it begins at sunset on the 13th of Jalál, which translates to the 20th or 21st of April, depending on the date of the March equinox.

April 21: Easter • One of the most important holiday days in the world's largest religion, Christianity. The holiday celebrates the resurrection of Jesus.

April 24: Armenian Martyrs' Day • A day to remember the genocide of 1.5 million Armenians between 1915 and 1923 in Turkey.

April 25: Gathering of Nations • The largest powwow in North America, 3-day with more than 500 tribes celebrating Native American culture.

Calendar courtesy of the Hamilton College Days-Massolo Center. For more information visit the Days-Massolo Center.

Clinton Scene: Stories From Our History
Hamilton College Fire Department

by Richard L. Williams
Town and Village Historian

IMAGE COURTESY OF @CLINTONFIRENY

In 2009, Hamilton made a single contribution of $250,000 toward the purchase of new ladder truck for the Clinton Fire Department.

Prior to 1895, Hamilton College had no municipal water system for drinking and fire suppression purposes. That year, Hamilton dammed up a creek near Skyline Drive for a reservoir, which supplied the College through mains until Utica water arrived in the 1990s. Hydrants provided an improved system for fire fighting.

To go along with the new water source, the College bought a hose cart with 200 feet of hose. An article in the Clinton Courier reported that the pressure was sufficient to throw water over the highest building on campus.

The Clinton Fire Department (CFD,) since its founding in 1866, has responded to fires and emergencies at Hamilton. A fire department of sorts was at Hamilton during the 20th century and functioned with students as volunteers at times.

In May 1929, the Courier reported that "College and Village sirens rang for an automobile fire." Where was the College siren located? Was it a horn or a bell or a what? During World War II a siren was in the Chapel belfry.

A year later the Courier reported that a fire engine was bought by Hamilton College. It was an American LaFrance engine on a Brockway chassis with a steel body and a 250 gpm pump. It had other equipment: 1200 feet of hose, 200 feet of smaller hose, two hand extinguishers, two ladders, two axes, lanterns, and other items. What happened to this rig?

This engine and the Hamilton College Fire Department did fight at least one fire according to an article in November 1930 at Silliman Hall (now Couper.) Damage amounted to $1000.00.

The College Fire Department along with the CFD answered a call in May 1931 when a passerby saw smoke coming from the basement of the Commons. The Clinton volunteers were assisted by students and the College apparatus, according to the Clinton Courier. A loss of $2500 was reported to items in a storeroom by the College store.

A fire-related prank got four College men in trouble when they sent in a false alarm about midnight in March 1940. The prank was premeditated as advance notice was given to village officials not to respond. The entire College Hill community turned out in response to the wailing of the seldom-used siren in the chapel, and the College fire truck made a run to Chi Psi Lodge with some difficulty due to the snow banks. Four Chi Psi members were fined $35.00 by College authorities for sending in the false alarm.

An subsequent editorial in Hamilton Life advocated the formation of a student volunteer fire department. The College had two or three engines which were kept in the former buildings and grounds complex just off College Hill Road between Dunham Dorm and the Rudd Infirmary. The Hamilton College Fire Department "operated" in the late 1940s and 1950's and at other times, too. However, Clinton still answered calls there.

The Spectator, in October 1948 described the American LaFrance engine as being in "deplorable condition" and the firefighting equipment as "extremely inadequate." The student department seemed to do more with fire safety and fire prevention in the dorms and fraternities, but did have a chief and 25-30 members.

The 1948 article listed John Davis as secretary. Mr. Davis was a medical doctor in Newark, New York and wrote in 2001 that it was "more of an honorary thing to do. I can't state as to whether we had any meetings and there hadn't been any real need for the Fire Department fortunately, due to lack of fires."

Sidney Wertimer, former economics professor, provost, and associate dean, recalled a few years ago that in 1956 the H.C.F.D. began again with the former 1930 Clinton Buffalo engine. This department was manned by students and lasted until 1962. The rig was turned over to the Air Force Reserve for drills in 1962, but was then given back to the College. It was sold to Dean Rockwell of Eden, New York.

The Clinton Historical Society has three helmets from the H.C.F.D. from this period.

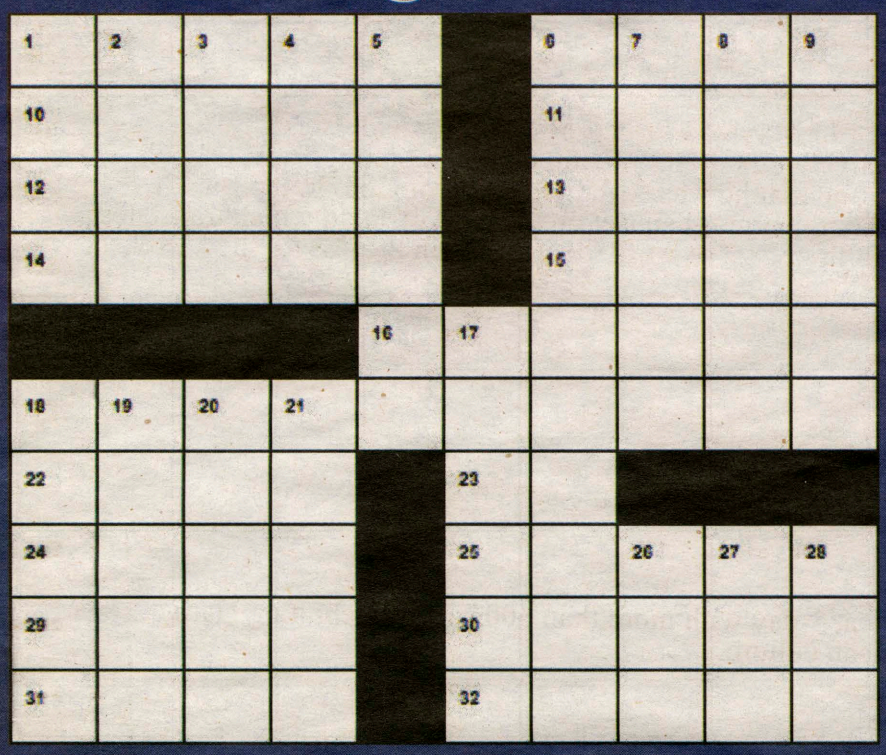
The October 8, 1965 Spectator reported on an amusing aspect of the Hill Fire Department. Ten students bought a 1925 Selden engine/pumper from the Village of Madison on Route 20 for $300.00. Informally, the students called themselves the "Lad and Hooker Co." and planned "to exhibit the engine to football games and College functions and to have it ready for emergency fire protection on the Hill."

All equipment, including a siren, flashing red light, bell, ladders, hose, 300 gallon tank, and pump were in working order. The company did standby work at a bonfire one fall evening. This seems to be the last fire apparatus housed on the Hill.

The fire detectors at Hamilton are wired to the Oneida County Fire Control so the Clinton alarm is activated whenever the sensors go off. Hamilton Security checks the situation thoroughly and radios CFD what the alarm is. Based on that information CFD officers determine whether to roll the rigs or not.

The College has its own student emergency medical team to respond rapidly to any crisis, and the Central Oneida County Ambulance Corps, based in Clark Mills, responds with the CFD Rescue rig to any medical calls on the Hill.

Puzzling Creations



Across:
1. Creators of *Pong*
6. Neon sign in a restaurant window
10. Creator of *The Thinker*
11. The indebted car owner's bane
12. An undeniable movement
13. Clean and organized
14. Nasty, as a remark
15. German ones
16. Aslan's land
18. March 17 or November 1?
22. Common variety of sax
23. Unit of data smaller than a GB
24. The unique creation of humans and some monkeys
25. Afflicted, in body or spirit
29. "y una", in English
30. What AA trips leave none of
31. Noble gas of lights
32. Nearly 1:1 US to UK conversion

Down:
1. In conjunction with Entertainment, a section of *The Spectator*
2. Ripped
3. Ghanian Stephen of economics
4. Edible pig skin
5. This space
6. A cranky crow?
7. A simple act that becomes criminal in public
8. Two government agencies in charge of protecting the environment and the elderly, in that order
9. Abstain from announcement
17. City of 1.7 million, the largest in Kazakhstan
18. Angel that falls from heaven in Milton's *Paradise Lost*
19. The state in which Tom Hanks's character finds himself in *Cast Away*
20. Nigerian surname
21. Ryan of baseball fame
26. Back muscle, colloquially
27. Environmental prefix
28. Party of slavery, as the Rep. Party loves to point out

Look back next week for the answers!

Vampire Weekend set to release new album *Father of the Bride*

by Melanie Snyder '19
Sports Editor

PHOTO COURTESY OF ROLLING STONE

The members of Vampire Weekend include (from left to right) Rostam Batmanglij, Ezra Koenig, Chris Baio, and Chris Tomson.

Vampire Weekend's fourth studio album *Father of the Bride* is set to be released Friday, May 3, though the group has already released four new songs off of the album over the course of the last two months as part of a preview period.

The group's last album, *Modern Vampires of the City*, was released over five years ago in 2013, and quiet reports of potential new music have been circulating since early last year. The early-released music is therefore likely a means of holding fans over for early part of this year until the final product is finished. "Harmony Hall," "2021," "Sunflower," and "Big Blue" just scratch the surface of the 18 total tracks expected on the new album.

Five years is a long time to wait for a band to release new music, especially when the artists in question only have three official albums to begin with, offering a mere 33 tracks in total (but who's counting) plus several deep tracks to listen to for five years.

That being said, excitement levels and expectations are predictably high among loyal Vampire Weekend fans and casual listeners alike. There is sometimes apprehension among fans of any music group that a group's new music will not have the same "sound" as their past works.

"Harmony Hall," released on Jan. 24., totally alleviated any of this concern that Vampire Weekend's new music might stray too far away from their established and beloved sound. Upon hearing the song's upbeat tempo, lively piano and guitar licks, coupled with Ezra Koenig's consistent and familiar vocals, the group is instantly recognizable.

At the same time, the piece is by no means a regurgitation of any earlier works and offers plenty of uniqueness, particularly in the nuances in the instrumental arrangements. The lyrics, in the spirit of song writer Koenig's love of ambiguity, are not discernable in terms of a simple "meaning," though there seems to be something political going on. One of the lyrics, for example, says, "Singers harmonize 'til they can't hear anything," reminiscent of the concept of "echo chambers," which describes the way in which news outlets and social media can contribute to divided partisan politics. The title of the song also points to this general idea.

"2021" was released at the same time as "Harmony Hall," the former a foil to the latter. "Harmony Hall" producing the same cheery mood reminiscent of the groups very first album, "Vampire Weekend." "2021," a shorter piece with a runtime of 1:38 and consists of a much slower pace and somber mood in the vein of the group's song "Modern Vampires of the City." A song like "2021" differs from "Harmony Hall" in that it is not meant to be sung along to or turned up in the car and enjoyed. Instead, it feels like something Koenig incorporated into the mix as a moment of calm for pause and contemplation. Even the lyrics speak to this: "2021 will you think about me?" This sentiment is not meant to be definitively judged as "good" or "bad" but is rather a connecting moment in the album — one part of a larger whole.

"Big Blue," released on March 6, follows this same pattern set forth in "2021." A shorter song again at only 1:48, the tone is slightly more optimistic lyric-wise but accompanied by a slower tempo; it is overarchingly a more serious and solemn piece. The slide guitar takes center stage in the song, standing out the most, especially as it slightly unexpected and not commonly used in the band's songs. This is also true of the faint choir vocals in the background.

"Big blue, for once in my life I feel close to you," is possibly the most ambiguous lyric of Koenig's among the new releases and there is no hint whatsoever as so what "big blue" refers to, although I wouldn't be surprised to find it explained in future tracks once the rest of the album is released.

Finally, "Sunflower," features drums and guitar almost exclusively, along with vocals and female vocal harmonies. The song offers the more upbeat rhythms once more and even comes across as mock-jazzy with the incorporation of flowing scales and scat-like vocals. It is certainly unlike what group has produced in the past with the absence of any piano at all

As in "Sunflower," and even the three other pre-album pieces, it seems that the fundamental difference between the group's new music is the change in band membership, which comes through in their new and more mature sound. The group's keyboardist and multi-instrumentalist Rostam Batmanglij departed the band in 2016 to pursue a soloist career, and it shows. Batmanglij contributed the distinctively classical sound to early Vampire Weekend songs that allowed the group to take on the genre of baroque-pop. "Harmony Hall" feels like an attempt to keep this keyboard style spirit alive, but it and the rest of the pieces are undeniably more poppy than classical or baroque. While Batmanglij claims to still be collaborating with Koenig as a co-song writer, the band that once thrived as a four-piece has more or less become a three-piece by offering only guitar, drums and bass in their new music. I would personally like to see more of Chris Tomson's drumming come through in the rest of the album tracks, as the drum parts are somewhat veiled in the four new songs. Hopefully the classical motifs and piano will return in the rest of the album as well, though there is no promise of this.

The final pre-album songs are set to be released on Thursday, April 4.

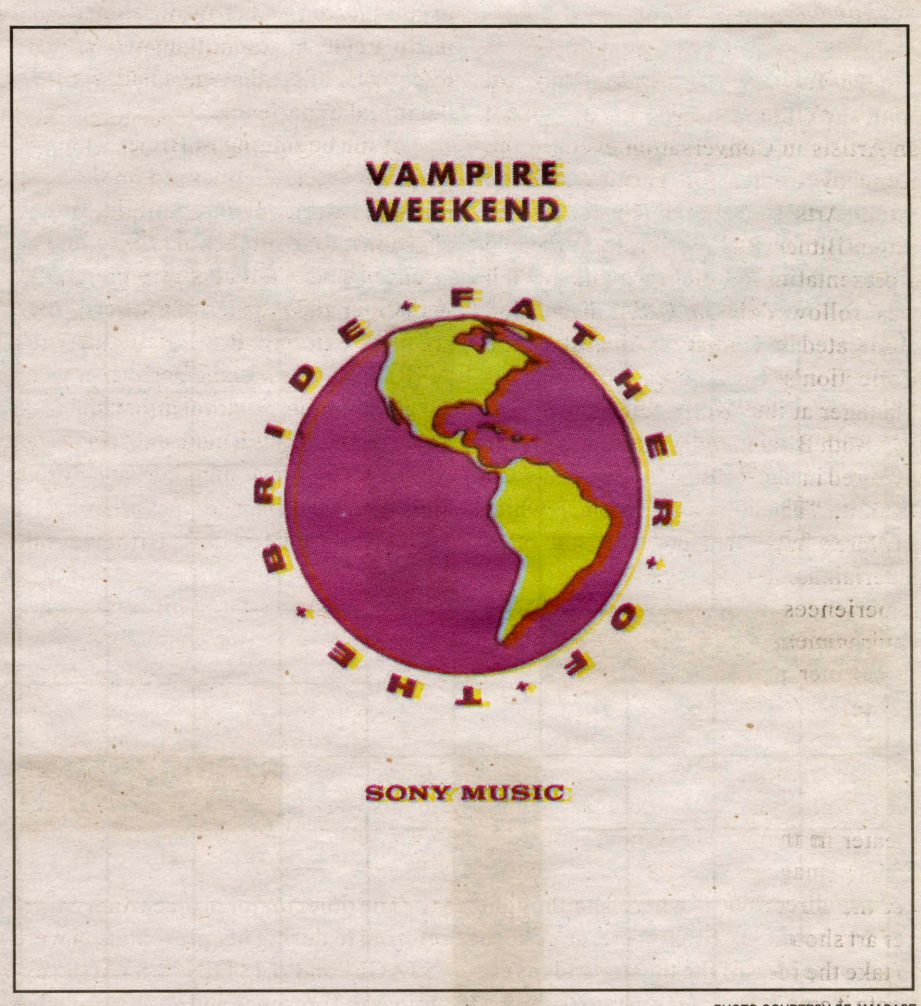


PHOTO COURTESY OF JAM BASE

***Father of the Bride*, the band's fourth studio album, is slated to be released on May 3 by Columbia Records.**

College Hill Choir tours East Coast

by Genevieve Cohen '21
PRODUCTION EDITOR

During the first week of spring break, the Hill Singers — the College's select chamber vocal ensemble — toured across five different states around the East Coast. I am one of the 23 students who had the opportunity to sing in Washington, D.C., Raleigh, NC, Charleston, SC, Atlanta, GA, and Tampa, FL.

At each stop throughout the trip, students stayed with host families, an exciting aspect of the tour coordinated by our choir director, Professor Danan Tsan, along with help from the Alumni Office. These occasions are often used as a networking opportunity for students on the tour, and Kelly Collins '21, the student tour coordinator, worked alongside the Alumni Office to match the careers of hosts with the interests of members of the ensemble. The homestay aspect of the tour is always an amazing opportunity for students to connect with the broader Hamilton community because all of the hosts are either families of current Hamilton students or alumni of the College.

Reflecting on her homestay experience, Lizzie Groubert '21 said, "Choir tour was an incredible opportunity to travel down the coast and meet hospitable Hamilton and Kirkland alumni. I had a wonderful time connecting with my host in [Washington,] D.C. because we took the same Renaissance Art History course at Hamilton with Professor McEnroe. We actually ended up going to the National Gallery of Art to see some of the sculptures and paintings that we both studied under McEnroe. It was also exciting to sing in many beautiful homes and churches and experience true Southern hospitality!"

The tour was also a special time for the ensemble's six graduating seniors. Echoing the sentiment of Groubert, Virginia Loke '19 said, "Touring the southeastern US this year gave us opportunities to see new US cities and to stay with incredibly interesting and hospitable hosts. I truly enjoyed my stay in D.C. with Michael and Jackie Judd, who coincidentally will be moderating our upcoming Common Ground event! It was also so special to see how we grew into the music through each performance, and how our sound evolved throughout the tour."

Although the ensemble traveled at a rigorous pace to cover over 1,700 miles in only six days, each stop provided students with the opportunity to explore different historical and cultural aspects of the respective cities, and we were thankful for the opportunity to stretch our legs once we reached each new location.

PHOTO COURTESY OF STACEY HIMMELBERGER

Hamilton's College Hill Singers perform at their first stop on the tour, D.C.'s St. Alban's Church.

Personally, my favorite stop was Charleston, SC, because we had a fair amount of time in between the time we arrived and the time we had to be at the church for rehearsal. The group of girls I was traveling with enjoyed a delicious restaurant for lunch that was full of southern charm, walked through the beautiful campus of the College of Charleston, and had time to walk down King Street to see the Historic Charleston City Market.

We enjoyed exploring each destination, and our tour included some virtual sightseeing as well. The music that was included in our repertoire took our audience on a "Choral Trip Around the World." We sang songs from Russia, Norway, Ireland, Nigeria, Korea, and the United States.

In addition, each performance included solos by SJ Kudzin '22 and Zach Brookler '19 in Ireland's "The Gartan Mother's Lullaby" arranged by Desmond Earley. Nathan Sobel '19, Collins, and Brookler sang Norway's "Sleepsong" arranged by Earley. Chris Hart '19 performed "Earth Blessing" arranged by J. David Moore. Finally, Dan Koobatian '21 sang "How can I keep from singing?" arranged by Sarah Quartel.

All in all, the College Hill Singers' tour was a success, and thanks to the support of Hamilton's amazing community of alumni, we were able to make connections that will last long beyond our own Hamilton careers.

Artists in Conversation event features Rhona Bitner and Lisa Kereszi at Wellin

by Emma Mae Regan '22
A&E EDITOR

On Tuesday, Apr. 2, the Ruth and Elmer Wellin Museum of Art hosted an Artists in Conversation event in the Kennedy Center for Theatre and the Studio Arts' Barrett Lab Theater. Artists Rhona Bitner and Lisa Kereszi each gave a presentation on their artwork, which was followed by a Q&A discussion moderated by Katherine Alcauskas, the Collection's Curator and Exhibitions Manager at the Wellin Museum.

Both Bitner and Kereszi have work featured in the Wellin Museum's newest exhibit, "Theaters of Fiction," which explores how theaters and and other entertainment spaces contribute to the experiences and responses to those environments.

Bitner presented first after Tracy L. Adler (the Johnson-Pote Director at the Wellin Museum) and Alcauskas gave their introductions. Bitner said she sees parallels between photography and theater in that "one enters a black box and an image appears." This idea gave her the direction of where she thought her art should go. From there, she chose to take the idea of the theater and investigate it on a 2-D surface using a camera. When Bitner pursues a new project, she says she wants it to explore an aspect of the theater, as her professional goal is to create a gesamtkunstwerk, or a total work of art that encapsulates "the theatrical experience."

At the beginning of Bitner's photographic career, she focused on the idea of the performer in the spotlight. Bitner chose her first subject matter to be the circus because in that environment, the performer and the idea of the performer are more extreme. Bitner said that with "CIRCUS," she and the performers had an anonymous relationship with each other, as the circus troupe only regarded her as an audience member and Bitner only regarded them as performers.

After "CIRCUS," Bitner made "CLOWN," a series of eleven lifesize images featuring three clowns. Bitner said that the photos were thoughtful in that she spent a lot of time making each exposure and that there is a lot of empathy between the photographer and the clown. The only instruction the clowns were given was to not smile, as their face makeup already portrayed that expression.

The other major projects that Bitner referred to during her presentation were "STAGE" and "LISTEN." "STAGE" examines the presence and absence of what is about to happen or has just happened on the stage and explores the space in and around the theater itself. Bitner defined "LISTEN" as an encyclopedia project about the inner architecture of American music venues. She said that the project was her attempt to photograph sound by capturing the memories of sound, like the placemarkers of certain events.

Kereszi's presentation followed Bitner's. She started her lecture by comparing and contrasting her work to Bitner. Kereszi said they were in similar in that both view theater as a camera. However, Kereszi stated that her work diverges from Bitner's in that Kereszi photographs not just the theater itself, but also the spaces surrounding it, such as the hallways, doors, and seats. Kereszi's work probes not only the transformative and escapist qualities of theaters, but also the mundane and banal.

Kereszi grew up outside of Philadelphia, P.A., where her father was in charge of the family junkyard. This upbringing ingrained in Kereszi the idea that "one man's trash is another man's treasure." As such, she is interested in the places where the "fantasy" fails, and uses elements of her photographs to "put" those cracks and failures on stage. Kereszi likes that she can take something that society deems ugly or not worth looking at and turn it into something else.

Kereszi's work is almost exclusively focused on theaters, but she has also photographed amusement parks, bars, haunted houses, hotels, and strip clubs. In her discussion, Kereszi admitted that her work started as an investigation of nocturnal spaces, but she quickly realized that it was more about escapism that nighttime or the dark. She felt that her personal psychology needed to understand why people would want to escape reality. Therefore, her work reveals that places that are designed to portray fantasy are pretty grim. Kereszi uses daylight, the flash of the camera, angles, and certain objects within these spaces to highlight this idea. The photos that Kereszi featured in her presentation were from her "Fun and Games," "The Party's Over," "Governors Island," and "Fantasies" serieses.

During the panel, Bitner and Kereszi discussed multiple topics, such as the transformative nature of the camera, the dynamics of looking, research, permission and access to spaces, how they choose whether or not to identify who or where they take their photos, and the future of their work.

On Thursday, Apr. 4, Bitner and Kereszi will lead a gallery walkthrough of "Theaters of Fiction" at 4:30 PM in the Wellin Museum.

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Women's tennis serves up strong start

*from **Tennis**, page 16*

at third flight singles, while Ingber recorded a three-set victory at sixth flight singles.

Coming back from spring break, the team was excited to sport an overall winning record of 4-2. "We had a pretty productive spring break," said Aulicino.

Aulicino added: "I believe all the girls are focused and determined to play and compete to the best of our abilities. We really bonded in Florida and I think the appreciation and respect we have for one another really motivates us to play our best tennis.

"We have come a long way from last season, from barely having enough girls to make a team to now where we are actively competing and beating teams we lost to last year."

Haffer, the team's captain, also commented on the success the team had down in Florida. "The team is super young and spring break brought us closer together," she said. "It was really exciting to have such a successful spring training trip and then come back to Clinton and find out that we were ranked #15 in the region and that one of our sophomores, Sophia Aulicino, is also ranked. As a captain, I couldn't be more proud of my team and the work these girls are putting in every day, on and off the court."

> "I believe all the girls are focused and determined to play and compete to the best of our abilities ... We have come a very long way from last season."
> -Jane Haffer '19

The team looks to take this momentum into their upcoming matches in April.

Their next match is on Thursday, April 4, at Union College. The next home match is scheduled for Saturday, April 6, at 11:30 AM against Rochester Institute of Technology and is the Children's Heart Awareness Match.

PHOTO BY JOSH MCKEE

Audrey Chor '21, fresh off of a singles record of 10-8 from her debut season, had a stellar showing during spring break.

Spring break scores and results

Men's lacrosse (3-4) on Saturday, March 16 at Bowdoin College (5-4) in Brunswick, M.E.

	1	2	F
Bowdoin	5	7	12
Hamilton	7	3	10

Men's lacrosse (3-4) on Wednesday, March 20 vs. Nazareth College (3-7) on Steuben Field

	1	2	F
Nazareth	4	8	12
Hamilton	11	6	17

Men's lacrosse (3-4) on Sunday, March 24 vs. #2 Amherst College (9-0) on Steuben Field

	1	2	F
#2 Amherst	11	9	20
Hamilton	6	2	8

Men's lacrosse (3-4) on Saturday, March 30 at #12 Bates College (7-2) in Lewiston, M.E.

	1	2	F
#12 Bates	8	9	17
Hamilton	5	4	9

Men's golf

Men's golf received first place out of three teams at the Fairwinds Golf Course in Fort Lauderdale, F.L. on Thursday, March 21. Hamilton played against St. Lawrence and conference rival Williams and came out on top with a score of 291. St. Lawrence and Williams received scores of 300 and 301 respectively. Andrew Watson '19 led the Contintenals with his best score of the season. Men's golf has no more home meets.

Women's golf

Women's golf took on St. Lawrence in two matches at the Fairwinds Golf Course in Fort Lauderdale, F.L. on Thursday, March 21. The matches were "best ball," so the team received no score. Libbie Warner '19 and Celia Lau '21 won each by four holes with three to play in their respective match-ups. Molly Healy '22 and Emily Moy '22 won each by five holes with four left to play. Women's golf has no more home meets.

Men's and women's track and field

Men's and women's track and field completed at Widener's Danny Curran Invitational in Chester, P.A. on Friday, March 29 and Saturday, March 30. The men's team tied for 14th place and received 17th place on Friday and Saturday respectively out of 29 teams. The women's team received 9th place and 3rd place on Friday and Saturday respectively out of 29 teams. Both teams will have a home meet on Tuesday, April 16 at 3:00 PM.

Men's tennis

Men's tennis (6-1) won all six of their match-ups over spring break for an astounding six-game win streak. The team beat Colby College 5-4, Illinois Tech 7-2, Colorado College 8-1, Bethel 7-2, Brooklyn College 8-1, and Whitworth College 9-0. All of the games took place over spring break in Lake Nona, F.L. Their next home match will be against RIT on Saturday, April 6 at 11:30 AM for their Children's Heart Awareness Match.

Baseball

Men's baseball (8-8) played 14 games during their spring break trip to Auburndale, F.L. and Winter Haven, F.L. The trip moved the team to 8-8 overall and 1-2 in the NESCAC. Hamilton beat Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts (MCLA), Illinois Tech, Rutgers-Camden, St. Joseph's, and Middlebury College and had three wins going into the trip. The team lost to Bard, Centre College, Illinois Tech, and St. Joseph's. They lost twice each to The College of New Jersey and Middlebury. The loss against Bard was an extraordinary 13-inning effort during which no runs were scored between the ninth and twelfth innings. A two-out single from Bard at the bottom of the thirteenth inning gave Bard a run and the win. Hamilton's best win was against MCLA, a resounding 13-1 win over the struggling 6-12 team. During the game, Brady Slinger '22, Jarrett Lee '21, and Ethan Wallis '21 each had two hits. Their next game will be Friday, April 12 at 4:00 PM against Amherst.

Softball

Softball (16-5) played 16 games during their spring break trip to Clermont, F.L. Hamilton finished off the trip with a visit to Williamstown, M.A. to take on Williams College for a triple-header. In Florida, the Continentals prevailed over Farmingdale State, Allegheny, Lawrence, Southern Maine, SUNY Cobleskill, Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, Albright, SUNY Plattsburgh, Colby, Lewis & Clark, Kalamazoo, and Union. Hamilton's only losses came from Tufts in a non-conference game and McDaniel. Hamilton's trip to play Williams ended in three losses for Hamilton, but the games were all close: 4-2 in the first, 4-3 in the second, and 4-2 in the third. This week, Hamilton won a double-header against Morrisville State at home, including a 15-0 win on Tuesday, April 2. The team will play a triple-header against Wesleyan on Friday, April 5 at 5:00 PM and Saturday, April 6 at noon and 2:00 PM on the Loop Road Softball Fields.

Women's lacrosse ranked #24 in Division III by latest coaches poll

by Julia Rowland '21
Contributing Writer

The #24 nationally-ranked Hamilton women's lacrosse team had an incredibly busy spring break. While most of the student body was on vacation, the women Continentals played a whopping six games over the course of two weeks, traveling to three different states to compete.

The Continentals won their first game of break on March 16 against NESCAC foes, the nationally-ranked Bowdoin Polar Bears. In what was a heart-wrenching game from the first whistle to the last, the Continentals won by just a single goal for a final score of 14-13.

Every member of the team contributed admirably, but Kara Pooley '19 had a particularly strong game, earning her NESCAC Player of the Week Honors.

Pooley totaled three goals, an assist, six ground balls and five caused turnovers.

Pooley reflected on the game against Bowdoin, saying, "It was an amazing team effort. We connected on both offense and defense in order to shut Bowdoin down and hold them off at the end of the game. Everyone worked together to pull off the win."

The following morning, at 4 AM, the Continentals flew down to Florida for some warmer weather and a game against the Saint Lawrence Saints. The Continentals started off strong scoring three goals right away on the Saints.

After a little lul in play the Continentals got back on the board and didn't stop. All three of Hamilton's goalies got to play with Meghan O'Hara '21 and Maggie Reville '22 getting their first collegiate minutes between the pipes.

> "It was an amazing team effort. We connected on both offense and defense in order to shut Bowdoin down and hold them off at the end of the game. Everyone worked together to pull off the win."
> - Kara Pooley '19

Reville '22 said of her first collegiate game, "It was a great experience knowing that I had seven teammates on the field to have my back and help me out.

"I had no need to be nervous or scared because I knew that our coaches and teammates have prepared me for this point."

The Continental's victory against the Saints ended in a final score of 16-7.

After an afternoon at the beach, the Continentals flew into Hartford, C.T. Just two days later they were back on the field in Amherst, M.A., playing the Amherst College Mammoths.

Amherst got off to a quick start in the first half of the game but after an uplifting halftime speech from the coaches, Hamilton came out firing in the second half.

Despite the strong comeback, it was not enough to upset the talented Amherst team. The Continentals dropped their first game of break 13-10.

The Continental's next game was Tuesday, March 26 at SUNY Oneonta. A short drive away, the Continentals were excited to be back in their usual upstate New York weather.

The Continentals once again got off to a slow start but soon began to dig their feet in and pull away from the Red Dragons. Captain Tatiana Bradley '19 scored two back-to-back goals with 20 seconds to play in the half to give the Continentals a 9-6 lead going into the second.

In the second half, the Continentals continued their hot streak and won 17- 7, allowing only one second half goal. Sarah Moore '22 spoke about the importance of the out-of-conference team win, saying, "It took us a little while to get going, but once everyone started working together, we pulled away and had a great team win."

Back at home two days later, the Continentals were set to play the Skidmore College Thoroughbreds. At the time of the game, Skidmore was ranked at #24 in the nation. The Continentals had their best first half of the year scoring ten goals and only giving up three.

Though the scoring settled down for the Continentals in the first half, their defense continued to hold back the Thoroughbreds, leading to their fourth win of the season.

Captain Gabby O'Brien '19 talked about the lock down defense by the Continentals, saying, "We really just buckled down and played WhamLax Defense, we knew what they were going to do and we shut it down. We held their best player to three goals which was a great accomplishment."

In the last game of the break, the Continentals faced the #21 Bates College Bobcats. Though the Continentals were tired from a long break of games, they put on a good showing in the first half, ending it ahead 5-3.

Unfortunately, the Bobcats would not go down. They came back in the second half to beat the Continentals 10-8.

The Continentals' (4-4, 1-4 NESCAC) next game is Saturday, April 6 against Trinity at Trinity College at 12 PM.

PHOTO BY JOSH MCKEE

Charlotte Wynn '20 recorded two assists and four ground balls on March 28 against Skidmore College.

PHOTO BY JOSH MCKEE

Women's lacrosse braced the cold weather over spring break. Pictured above: Tatiana Bradley '19 on March 30.

H SPECTATOR SPORTS
April 4, 2019

Women's tennis dominates with 3-1 record during Florida trip

by Kelcie Zarle '22
Staff Writer

To kick off their spring season, the Hamilton College women's tennis team went 1-1 in early March with a loss to #6 Middlebury College (9-0) and a win over #40 Colby College (6-3). With hopes of building off of their win against the Mules, the team headed to Lake Nona, F.L., for a series of games over spring break.

On Wednesday, March 20, the team took on Illinois Tech in their first match down south. The Continentals took five of the six matches from the Scarlet Hawks, as Jane Haffer '19, Kat Roberts '22, and Ajla Karabegovic '21 won both their singles and doubles matches. Other noteworthy performances included that of Audrey Chor '21 who won at second flight singles, Becca Ingber '22, who was able to win in straight sets at sixth flight singles, and Sarah Bargamian '22 who won at third flight doubles with Haffer as her partner.

The following day, the Continentals competed against both the Colorado College Prowlers and the Bethel University Lions. The team was able to defeat the Prowlers 9-0 as Roberts, Karabegovic and Baramian won every single game in their fourth, fifth and sixth flight matches respectively. Sophia Aulicino '21 won every game in her first flight match except for one. Chor and Haffer were also successful as they won their single matches as well.

For Haffer, this win marked her 37th singles win of her career at Hamilton. Haffer, who was paired with Ingber, and Bargamian, who was paired with Chor, were able to secure the victory over Colorado College as they both won their doubles matches. Though the team wasn't as successful against Bethel, Roberts was able to win at fourth flight singles as the Continentals' only winner. She ended Thursday having won all three of her matches.

On their last day, the team ended their road trip with a victory. In the 8-1 win against Whitworth University, the team earned three single victories in three sets. Aulicino, Chor, Roberts, and Karabegovic were all able to win both of their singles and doubles matches. Haffer won all of her games

see Tennis, page 14

PHOTOS BY JOSH MCKEE

Jane Haffer '19 (top) won her 37th career singles match and Kat Roberts '22 (bottom) swept her four matches over spring break.

Men's and women's rowing prepare for spring season with trip to Clemson

by Jo Dine '22
Contributing Writer

While most of the other Hamilton spring season athletic teams competed over spring break during one-week trips to Florida, the men's and women's rowing teams headed to Clemson, S.C. for two weeks of spring training.

It was the first time the program travelled to Clemson; last spring the team held training and attended the John Hunter Regatta in Gainesville, G.A. This time, they did not compete in any races, instead spending the two weeks practicing and preparing for their season.

The teams have undergone quite a few other changes in the short time since their fall season ended. Jim Lister was named head coach in Feb. 2019 after five years as the Syracuse University assistant women's rowing coach. The women's team has also added six new rowers for their spring season and the men's team has added four.

From February until the end of March, the city of Clemson hosted a total of 29 college and high school rowing teams, including Hamilton's, which trained on Clemson University's six-lane race course and used their facilities. Hamilton's teams ate at the university's dining hall and even attended a Clemson basketball game.

The Continentals' training consisted of two practices a day on the water, which, while demanding, were a welcome change for most of the rowers.

"It was really great to get outside after erging inside all winter," said Kat Buckley '21 of the women's team. "We put in a lot of good work and I'm excited to see the results of all that effort." Buckley also noted that the South Carolina sunshine and warm water were a welcome change from central New York snow.

The indoor training that takes place in between the two seasons is typically used to build a better foundation of strength and speed for the spring regattas and includes periodic timed evaluations. Training on Clemson's courses allowed the teams to work on their rowing form, become acclimated to being in the boat, and imitate the conditions of an actual race more closely. Jane Fanning '22, a member of the women's team, noted, "It was difficult at first to learn how to row in a boat with more experienced rowers, but everyone was so helpful and supportive."

The practices each day usually started with a dynamic warm-up followed by technical drills. Then, the teams usually went through sections of high-intensity race pieces.

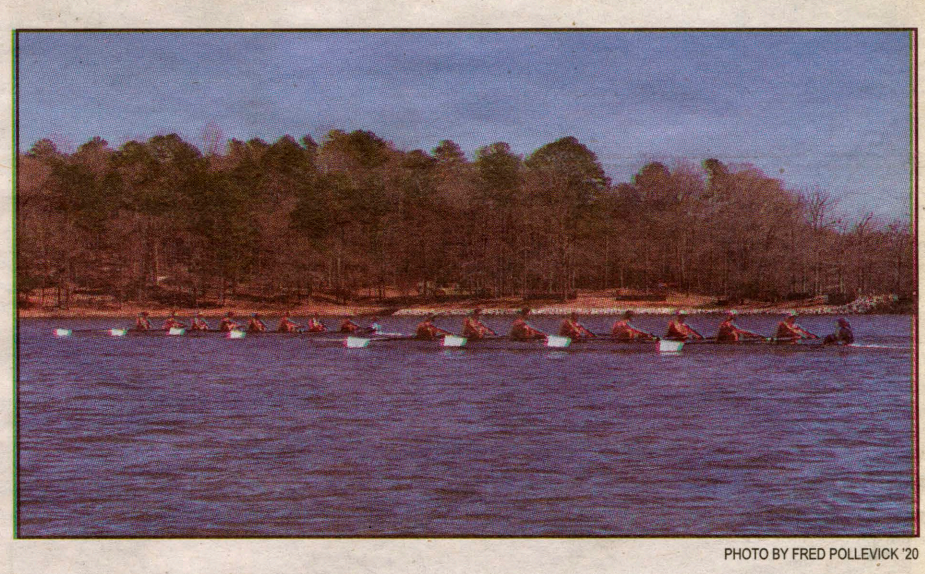

PHOTO BY FRED POLLEVICK '20

The men's and women's varsity-8 boats hit the water in Clemson, S.C., for a joint practice before their first regatta of the weekend.

Grant Kiefaber '19, the men's co-captain, said, "We had a really successful spring training trip. Our new coach, Jim Lister, is already helping to make our rowers faster, so we are even more excited for our coming races this season."

The fall season, during which the men's and women's teams competed in three and four regattas respectively, was successful for each team. Both teams have five regattas in April before the New York State Collegiate Championship and the NESCAC Championship in May. Last spring, both teams finished in 5th place in the NESCAC.

The men's and women's teams have their first races of the spring season this weekend. They both race on Saturday, April 6 and Sunday, April 7, on Lake Quinsigamond in Shrewsbury, M.A. Their first home races in Rome, N.Y. will take place the following weekend on Saturday, April 13.